

**Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
Technical Commission (TEC) Minutes
August 12, 2026
Vadnais Heights City Hall, Council Chambers
800 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127**

Commission Members Present:

Nick Ousky	Vadnais Heights (VH)
Gloria Tessier	Gem Lake (GL)
Susan Miller	North Oaks (NO)
Jami Philip	White Bear Township (WBT)
Terry Huntrods	White Bear Lake (WBL)
Tom Hoffman	Lino Lakes (LL)

Others in attendance: Phil Belfiori, Dawn Tanner, Brian Corcoran, Lauren Sampedro, Angela Hugunin (VLAWMO staff), Ed Shapland (WAV).

I. Call to Order

Chair Ousky called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the August 12, 2026 TEC agenda as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes (July 8, 2026)

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the July 8, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

IV. Administration & Operations

A. August Financial Report and Consider Authorization for Payment

Administrator Belfiori summarized the August financial statement as included in the TEC packet. He highlighted income from the first installment of the Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) fee. For expenditures, he outlined monitoring and analysis expenses for creek and lake monitoring, continued restoration work for the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland, ongoing work related to the 319 grant project, and public ditch maintenance for Lambert Creek. Administrator Belfiori recommended approval of the August financial report and payment of the bills.

It was moved by Commissioner Huntrods and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve the August financial report and authorize for payment. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

B. August TEC Report to the Board

Administrator Belfiori summarized key items from the August TEC Report to the Board, including early design work for a project from the East Vadnais Subwatershed Resiliency Study,

a continued effort between the City of Vadnais Heights and partners including VLAWMO; the completion of the City of Vadnais Heights' whole-city resiliency study; and the Board's upcoming consideration of 2027 Storm Sewer Utility (SSU) rates.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Tessier to approve the August TEC Report to the Board. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

V. Programs

A. Update on Recent Community Engagement Efforts

Hugunin outlined recent outreach efforts, including two educational presentations at Tamarack Nature Center. Staff visited groups of interns with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI). On the first day, interns observed staff conducting their standard water quality monitoring at Tamarack Lake. On the second day, learning centered on watershed projects and conservation career paths. Staff appreciated the opportunity to connect with young learners and the Tamarack Nature Center team. Hugunin also highlighted the Environmental Resources Expo, part of the City of White Bear Lake's Marketfest. Minnesota Water Steward volunteers joined staff for the event tabling, which drew many visitors and increased community connections.

B. Update on Upcoming Events

Hugunin provided an update on upcoming events including the City of Vadnais Heights' Family Fun Zone, Neighborhood Garden Tour, and a fall workshop about caring for native gardens. Staff and volunteers will attend the Family Fun Zone on Saturday, August 15th from 11 am to 2 pm. In addition, Hugunin shared that the second round of garden tours will occur on Tuesday, August 25th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm, and the fall workshop, Caring for a Native Garden, will take place on September 15th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the White Bear Town Hall.

C. SHG 2026-05 Peterson Native Plant Restoration Grant Application

Sampedro presented a Soil Health Grant application for a native plant restoration project in Vadnais Heights. Sampedro shared the proposed location of the project, which drains directly to a wetland before ultimately draining to Sucker Lake.

The proposed restoration application involves two phases. Sampedro explained that the first proposed project phase includes a plan to naturally stabilize a steep, eroding slope with native shrubs and groundcover. The second proposed project phase would involve replacing invasive plants along a wetland with a 5-10 foot-wide wetland buffer with native plants.

Sampedro explained that in total, the project would involve adding over 600 native plant plugs and bareroot plants, as well as 21 shrubs. The total estimated project cost is \$2,184.50. Staff recommended approval of SHG 2026-05 in the amount of \$1,250.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Huntrods to approve SHG 2026-05 in the amount of \$1,250. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.

D. LL2 2026-02 City of Lino Lakes Stormwater Reuse for Irrigation Grant Application

Sampedro shared a Landscape Level 2 Grant application from the City of Lino Lakes for a stormwater reuse system for irrigation at the intersection of Centerville Road and County Road J East. Sampedro showed the project's location at the new roundabout at County Road J, Wilkinson Lake Blvd, and Centerville Road, an effort that has involved partnership between multiple agencies. Sampedro explained that the grant project proposes to irrigate the new roundabout's vegetation with water from a nearby stormwater pond for an estimated savings of 35,000 gallons of water annually. She noted that this area is located within the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area that is at risk of groundwater overuse.

The stormwater reuse for irrigation system cost estimate is \$49,140.00. Staff recommended approval of a 90% grant level for the stormwater reuse system up to \$44,226.00 to the Board of Directors at their August 26th meeting.

Commissioner Miller asked about the plants selected to go in the roundabout and whether the chosen grasses may spread. Sampedro responded that the plants were selected to be hardy enough for the roundabout conditions with non-natives that require less maintenance and should not spread. Commissioner Miller affirmed that the new plants will be a nice addition to the community.

It was moved by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Philip to approve LL2 2026-02 in the amount of \$44,226.00.

VI. Projects

A. Update on 319/Phase 2 Project

Tanner provided an update on the proposed Phase 2 project, sharing that the lab analysis and report of soils sampled in June has been completed, with results being favorable. The semi-annual report for the grant was completed ahead of the August deadline and approved by the project manager at the MPCA. Reimbursement has been received for the first project invoice.

B. WMP Accessible Version/Posting and Sharing

Tanner stated that staff received a draft of the digitally accessible version of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) from the consultant. She said that VLAWMO staff would be reviewing and discussing it later that day, following the TEC meeting. Staff will move forward with WMP distribution to partners and the public.

C. Rotary Nature Preserve: Summer Planting and Remaining Late Summer/Fall Work

Tanner shared that planting work at the Rotary Nature Preserve wetland has been productive to date. Treatment of reed canary grass along the wetland buffer has been successful. Shallow standing water areas have been planted with more native plants. She stated that work this fall

will include ongoing invasive species treatment (e.g., cattail and reed canary grass) and overseeding with native species.

VII. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. NOHOA

None.

IX. Ramsey Soil & Water Conservation Division (RCSWCD)

None.

X. St. Paul Regional Water Services

None.

XI. Public Comment

None.

XII. Next Meetings

TEC meeting: September 9, 2026 at 8:15 am; Board meeting: August 26, 2026.

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 am. Vote: all aye. Motion passed.